

2022 Fireworks Review

*WFD/Community Risk
Reduction Division*



February 28th, 2023



4th of July 2022

- The WFD responded to 71 fireworks related calls
- Six structure fires resulted in an estimated loss of \$181,000
- 17 injuries were reported to area medical facilities
- 1,224 calls were submitted to the fireworks complaint hotline

Fire Incidents

FIRE INCIDENTS					
Fire Type	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
STRUCTURE (House, Business, Mobile Home, Shed)	6	3	7	3	5
NON-STRUCTURE	1	1	16	2	6
VEHICLE / BOAT	1			2	
PLAY GROUND EQUIPMENT					
FENCES					
EXPLOSION NO FIRE/SMOKE SCARE	9	11	6	6	9
CITIZEN COMPLAINT/ASSIST PD	3	10	1	3	6
GRASS/TREES/COMPOST/ TRASH	36	14	33	2	15
DUMPSTER/TRASH*	13				
TOTALS	71	39	63	18	41
ESTIMATED LOSS	181,000	183,000	\$109,400	\$63,800	\$47,500

*Added incident 2022

Injuries

4

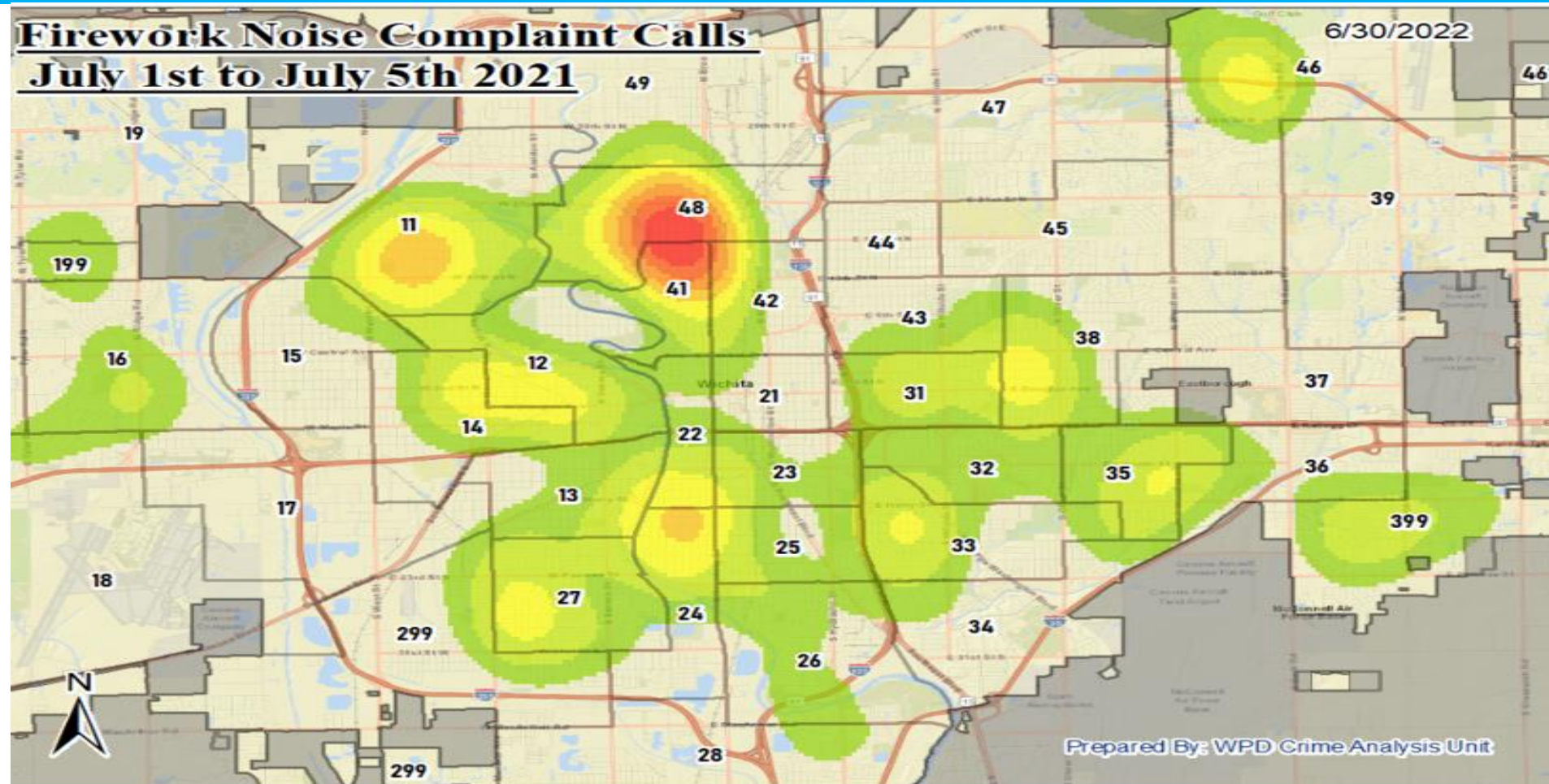
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Injuries	17	47	46	51	51
Ages	4 – 36	3 – 78	Infant – 72	Infant – 66	1-86
Mode	Artillery and/or Mortar	Smoke Bomb	Artillery and/or Mortar	Artillery and/or Mortar	Artillery and/or Mortar

Fireworks Enforcement

- WFD joint patrol effort with WPD
- Patrol conducted on the evenings of June 30th – July 4th
- Ten teams patrolled “hot spots” on July 3rd & 4th
- Primary goals included public education & enforcement

Hot Spots

6



Financial Considerations

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- Staff inspected 26 fireworks tents
- Fireworks sales permit fees totaled \$39,000
- Collections funded expanded enforcement efforts
- Fines from citations are estimated to exceed \$2,000

Fireworks Committee

- Review current City ordinance and consider modifications
- Inaugural meeting held on November 10th
- Representatives of city council, WFD, WPD & Parks

Committee Members

- *Councilmember Bryan Frye*
- *Councilmember Mike Hoheisel*
- *Fire Chief E.C. Snow, WFD*
- *Interim Fire Marshal C.D. Dugan, WFD*
- *Battalion Chief of CRRD Jose Ocadiz, WFD*
- *Sergeant Ed Brower, WPD*
- *Reginald Davidson, Recreation Superintendent*

Considerations

- Overwhelming distribution of illegal fireworks in Wichita
- Enforcement efforts proven to be costly and ineffective
- State statute and Sedgwick County allow aerial fireworks
- Aerials offered for sale within minutes of Wichita city limits
- Input from area fireworks vendors

Challenges

- Ensuring the health and wellbeing of the community
- Concerned citizens opposed to aerial fireworks
- Equitable strategy to address fireworks sales in Wichita
- Implementation of fireworks ordinance modifications

Solutions

- Responsible modification of fireworks ordinance
- Alignment with existing county and state statute
- Bolster enforcement of the fireworks ordinance
- Increase penalty for violating the fireworks ordinance
- Phased approach to ensure safe implementation

Phase I - 2023

- Revise local ordinance in alignment with KAR 22-6
- \$10 permit fee per location to shoot aerial fireworks
- Legalize aerial fireworks from July 1st – July 4th
- “Safe and Sane” fireworks from June 27th – July 4th
- Legal shooting hours remain 10:00 am – Midnight

Phase I – 2023 *(cont.)*

- Enhanced enforcement efforts, July 1st through July 4th
- Zero-tolerance policy for fireworks violations
- Increase associated fines*
 - *1st offense: \$1,000*
 - *2nd offense: \$1,500*
 - *Subsequent offenses: \$2,000*

**Offenses reset annually*

Phase II - 2024

- Legalize aerial fireworks sales in the City of Wichita
- New fee schedule for fireworks tents
- Implementation of a public safety CID for fireworks tents

Action Items

- Consult with Communications Team regarding messaging
- Process to secure fireworks permits with Licensing
- Work with City Legal to draft updated language
- DABS in March & April
- Pass modified fireworks ordinance in May
- Communication issued by June

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